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COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
SEPTEMBER 10, 2012
MEETING NOTES

Present: Rose Alvarez, Erik Johnson, Paul Lofgren, Mark Pharaoh, Chris Richardson, George Schlapo, Don Shulman, Sean Thomas Smith, Michael Waters, Felecia Wilson.

Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Mary Bradford [Parks], Christine Brett [Parks], Morton Davis [Commission on Aging], Susan Hoffmann [Rec], Acting Lt. Bill Kellogg [Park Police] and Robin Riley [Rec]

Absent: James Krzyminski, Ron MacNab, David Magill, Clara Pribluda, James Zepp, Steve Beach [CUPF], Mike Riley [Parks], Kamran Rasul [Commission on Disabilities] Lori-Christina Webb [MCPS].

Chair Report – Chris Richardson

- Chair Richardson welcomed everyone and introduced our new members.
- June 4, 2012 Meeting Notes were unanimously approved.

Rec Update – Gabe Albornoz

- Report on the impact of the derecho on June 29 which coincided with the first week of summer camps. Cancellations were necessary for the first few days until debris was removed and power was restored.
- Fourth of July celebrations were cancelled in both Wheaton and Germantown. County resources were severely strained and many traffic lights were still out. Limiting unnecessary travel was the decision point.
- Montgomery County Recreation experienced lower camp enrollment this summer. The department is in the process of an analysis to determine if we are meeting the needs and interests of the County.
- Montgomery County policy provides that all rentals of Montgomery County facilities will be processed through Community Use of Public Facilities. The first phase applies to our fields and the second to our Community Recreation Center spaces. Montgomery County Recreation hopes for a smooth transition that will minimize the impact on our customers and is working toward that end.
- The Summer Teen Employment Program [S.T.E.P.], which worked with 28 very dedicated young people, was a tremendous value-added success to the department. The STEP kids took on many tasks throughout the department and received high marks wherever they worked.

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- After School Programs are starting. Teen Programs such as the Teen Cafe on Fridays and Saturdays has been reinstated in five geographic areas as Montgomery County Recreation attempts to address the “hotter spots” in the County.
- Montgomery County Recreation is hiring for six new positions including youth programmers and a supervisor.
- The first phase of the Wheaton Community Recreation Center/Library project, identifying the program of requirements, has begun.
- Special thanks to the Park Police for their help all summer at the pools.
- The easement issue at the Scotland Community Recreation Center, which will permit the construction process to go forward, is nearly finalized.
- Plum Gar Community Recreation Center construction is moving along well. A soft opening is planned for Spring 2013 with a grand opening scheduled to coincide with Summer 2013 programming.
- Despite a mid-day downpour, the Silver Spring Jazz Festival went well and by the time headliner Sergio Mendes took the stage, Veterans Plaza was very crowded.

Parks Update – Mary Bradford

- The derecho slammed all Parks facilities. Many weddings were impacted. One third of “Go Ape” was lost. Parks is moving ahead with a redesign.
- The Civilian Conservation Corps graduated a couple of hundred youngsters.
- The new Tennisplex at Germantown, a partnership with Jack Schore, will be opening.
- A playground was dedicated to recently-deceased Montgomery County civic activist Ron Berger.
- Christine Brett
 - Weddings had to be moved due to the derecho.
 - Wheaton Rink was down for two weeks due to power outages.
 - Camps and classes had to scramble.
- A discussion ensued on public/private partnerships and naming rights. There are IRS roadblocks. Montgomery County Finance is looking into it.
- Rose Alvarez has agreed to represent the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board as we look at transitioning use of our spaces to Community Use of Public Facilities.

Local Board Reports

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- Eastern County – will be meeting next week with the East County Citizens Advisory Board. There will be a youth forum before the Teen Café. Burtonsville Day is September 22.
- Mid County -- What is status of MOU with Park Police for Community Recreation Centers? Mary Bradford explained that a land swap is planned which will circumvent the necessity to transport the Farquhar Middle School students to the Tilden holding school while the new school is built next to the old one. An effort is underway to work out the legal challenges.

Ex Officio Reports

- Commission on Aging – Mr. Davis thanked Gabe Albornoz for providing him with an office at Holiday Park. He has hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 1pm. He continues his work on Keeping Seniors Safe.
- MCPS – Rose Alvarez reported that a committee is in formation to look at how high schools are structured...should MCPS go with a flexible schedule?
- M-NCPPC Police – Acting Lt. Kellogg reported that the Police Equestrian Competition will take place on September 30 at the Gaithersburg Fairgrounds. Park Police had eight positions to fill, with five remaining.

Old/New Business

- Meeting Schedule/Frequency – for the present, both the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board and the Area Recreation Advisory Boards will continue to meet monthly. Mary Bradford pointed out the importance of the guidance and advice provided by the boards to both departments.
- The ADA Compliance Committee is looking for volunteers. ADA renovations are ongoing at a number of facilities, including Community Recreation Centers and pools.
- Chair Richardson asked for additions to the agenda be sent to staff early.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.